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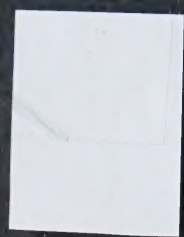
Country Profile

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Sudan



Canada





Canadian International
Development Agency

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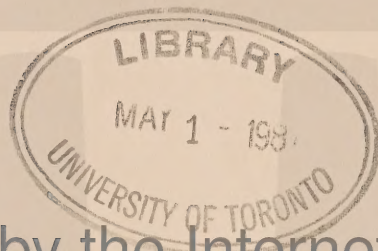
Country Profile



Sudan



Canada



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PEOPLE

The Sudanese population of about 18 million is composed mainly of Moslem Arabs and Nubians in the north and Nilotic and various African tribes, anamists and Christians, in the south. Many of these tribes have close affinities with those in neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Zaire. The population is concentrated along the Nile and around the capital city, Khartoum. About 30 per cent of the total population live in the south. Most of the country is sparsely populated and almost 90 per cent live in rural areas.

GEOGRAPHY

Sudan is the largest country in Africa. It stretches from the border with Egypt in the north to near the Equator in the south, and from the Red Sea and Ethiopia in the east to Central Africa in the west. In all, it is bordered by eight countries including Egypt and Libya to the north, Central African Republic to the west, Zaire, Uganda and Kenya to the south.

There are few strongly defined topographical features in Sudan although the peak of Jebel Mana in the west is more than 3,000 metres high. The dominant physical feature of Sudan is the Nile River with its extensive tributaries including the Blue Nile and the White Nile.

The country can be divided into three broad east-west zones: the northernmost zone from the Egyptian frontier to the capital at Khartoum consists mainly of desert with little or no vegetation; the central zone is intersected by many streams and is marked by well-developed irrigation systems that give rise to extensive agricultural activity; the southern zone contains expanses of savannah and forests similar to those in East Africa and the Congo.

HISTORY

Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, is the site of one of the earliest remains of African civilization. Sudan is also the homeland of the ancient Kingdom of Kush. The country's modern history has been marked by the Turko-Egyptian occupation in the 19th century, Islamic rule after the defeat of British General Charles Gordon in 1885 and the return of Anglo-Egyptian rule in 1899 which lasted until independence in 1956.

Independence was followed by a long period of political instability with the country veering between military and multi-party regimes. Civil war in 1963 resulted from longstanding animosities between the Arab and Islamic north and the Christian and anamist south. There has been relative political stability since the end of the civil war in 1972 under Gaafer Mohamed Nimeiri who has twice been named president for six-year terms.

ECONOMY

Sudan is designated a lower income less developed country (LDC) by the United Nations. Agriculture employs the vast majority of the population and cotton is the major export earner. Other exports include textiles, gum arabic, ground nuts, sesame, and livestock products. The manufacturing sector is still in the formative stages and the south of the country suffers a severe lack of infrastructure including roads.

The major economic problem facing Sudan has been the balance of payments crisis exacerbated by the decline in export prices, particularly cotton. Its precarious economic situation has been worsened by an influx of refugees from its strife-torn neighbors including Chad, Uganda and Ethiopia.

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE

The objectives of CIDA's development assistance to Sudan are to build on its renewable natural resource potential and to improve the country's transport sector. Food aid for humanitarian needs has also been a major Canadian contribution because of Sudan's severe refugee problem in recent years.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

The aim of CIDA's bilateral program in Sudan is to support the transport sector and improve the renewable natural resource potential of the country.

Some current projects include:

Southern road maintenance project - \$2.3 million

This project contributes to the improvement of the basic transport infrastructure in the south through the establishment of a maintenance program on three main roads totalling approximately 550 kilometres.

Sim Sim dryland project - \$12 million

This project is designed to bring approximately 4,000 hectares of cleared land at the Sim Sim State Farm into production through a program of testing new agronomic techniques used in Western Canada including new Canadian equipment and crops.

Forestry sector program - \$14.4 million

This project is to assist Sudan in the development of sound resource development and management practices at the national and regional government levels. The training of technicians and the operation of sawmills are included in the project.

Food Aid - \$7 million

This food aid is to assist Sudan in providing additional food to meet the immediate needs of the large influx of refugees from its strife-torn neighboring countries.

Mission Administered Funds (MAF)

This \$150,000 annual fund for small projects in Sudan is administered by the Canadian Embassy in Cairo. The projects, usually initiated by community groups and voluntary organizations, provide economic, technical or social development assistance. No project may receive more than \$25,000 in support from this fund.

MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

Among the United Nations and other multilateral agencies active in Sudan to which CIDA contributes funds are the United Nations Development Program, World Bank and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

ASSISTANCE FROM CIDA'S SPECIAL PROGRAMS BRANCH

The assistance channels of the Special Programs Branch involve direct participation of Canadians in efforts to promote self-reliance and meet basic human needs in developing countries. Sudan is currently receiving development assistance through the following programs of CIDA's Special Programs Branch.

Non-Governmental Organizations Division (NGO)

CIDA is currently funding 17 projects initiated by Canadian non-governmental organizations for a total CIDA contribution of \$647,185. The organizations are contributing a similar amount in support of the projects. The projects include the African Inland Mission Kapoeta health and community development project, a Foster Parents' Plan of Canada community development program, the Boy Scouts of Canada workshop for energy alternatives, Canadian Lutheran World Relief rural development and communications projects, the Canadian Council of Churches rehabilitation and development programs, the Sudan Interior Mission's primary health care program and refugee programs sponsored by World Vision of Canada and the YMCA.

International Non-Governmental Organizations Division (INGO)

CIDA is currently funding a project initiated by Euro-Action Acord, an international non-governmental organization which is supporting the Amadi Rural Development Training Centre in Sudan. Over a three-year period, the project aims at training community development field workers in food production improvement, village technology, midwifery, nutrition and communications skills. CIDA's contribution is \$313,400.

Institutional Cooperation and Development Services Division (ICDS)

CIDA is currently funding six projects under this program for a total contribution from CIDA of \$70,255. The organizations themselves contribute a similar amount in support of their projects. Among the organizations initiating projects are CUSO which sponsors a dressmaking course, the University of Saskatchewan which supports a law development project, Simon Fraser University which has rural communications projects in Sudan and the Canadian Public Health Association which has initiated a health care feasibility study.

COUNTRY PROFILE

Official name	The Democratic Republic of Sudan
Capital	Khartoum
Area	2.5 million sq. km.
Population (1980)	17.9 million
Population density	7.1 people per sq. km.
Population growth rate (1970-79)	2.6%
Official language	Arabic
Significant dates	
1956	Sudan achieves independence.
1963-1972	Period of civil war.
1972	Gaafer Mohamed Nimeiri becomes president.
Life expectancy at birth (1979)	47 years
Death rate per thousand population (1979)	13
Daily per capita calorie supply as percentage of requirement (1977)	93%
Percentage of population with access to safe water (1975)	46%
Adult literacy rate	20%
Currency	Sudanese pound
GNP per capita	U.S. \$370
Inflation rate (1979)	6.8%
Percentage of labor force in:	
agriculture	78%
industry	10%
services	12%

Main exports

Cotton, gum hashab

Exports to Canada (1980)

Vegetable products	\$ 8,000
Inedible end products	\$ 5,000
Other	\$1,016,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1,029,000</u>

Imports from Canada (1980)

Plate, sheet and strip, steel	\$2,704,000
Medical and pharmaceutical products	\$ 624,000
Wood fabricated materials	\$ 497,000
Other	\$4,100,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$7,925,000</u>

Sources: World Development Report 1981, published by the World Bank.
Atlasco faits et chiffres 1981/82, published by Le Nouvel
Observateur.
Population and Vital Statistics, published by the United Nations.
1981 World Population Data Sheet, published by the Population
Reference Bureau Inc.
Various publications of the Government of Canada.

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Produced by the Public Affairs Branch
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0G4

Tel.: (819) 997-6100



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